

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT ELECTED PRESIDENT EMILIA-ROMAGNA
REGIONAL COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY. FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC VICE
PRESIDENT REGIONAL COUNCIL, NATALINO GUERRA, WAS ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL MARCH 25. ELECTION PRACTICALLY
UNANIMOUS. ALL CONCERNED IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA CLAIM THIS
BY NO MEANS ANY QUOTE COMPROMESSO STORICO UNQUOTE
SINCE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, IN CONTRAST GIUNTA PRESIDENT
AND GIUNTA MEMBERS, HAS NO EXECUTIVE POWERS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
DISCUSSION AMONG LEADERS ALL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN
EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGIONAL COUNCIL, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
REGIONAL COMMITTEE VOTED TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL DC
REGIONAL SECRETARY TO ACCEPT PCI OFFER TAKE
PRESIDENCY REGIONAL COUNCIL (DC CENTRAL COMMITTEE VOTE
WAS 28 IN FAVOR, 8 AGAINST, 3 ABSTENTIONS.

3. IN CONTRAST TO SOME OTHER REGIONS IN ITALY, EMILIA-
ROMAGNA REGIONAL LAW PROVIDES FOR REELECTION EVERY 20
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MONTHS OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT. PREVIOUS SOCIALIST
PRESIDENT, SILVANO ARMAROLI, HAD BEEN REELECTED AT EVERY
INTERVAL SINCE 1970. THUS, ELECTION PROCESS ITSELF
WAS NO SPECIAL EVENT. GUERRA RECEIVED 48 OF THE VOTES
OF THE 50-MEMBER REGIONAL COUNCIL. HE RECEIVED ALL
THE VOTES OF THE COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS, LIBERAL, REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

MSI COUNCILMAN ABSTAINED AND THE PDUP COUNCILMAN VOTED FOR ARMAROLI. THUS GUERRA EASILY RECEIVED THE FOUR-FIFTHS VOTE REQUIRED BY REGIONAL LAW.

4. PRIOR TO GUERRA'S ELECTION, THE DEBATE AMONG ALL POLITICAL PARTIES FOCUSED ON TWO MAIN ISSUES: THE PROBLEM OF THE QUOTE COMPROMESSO STORICO UNQUOTE AND THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIALISTS THAT THE AGREEMENT ON GUERRA WOULD ALSO MEAN AN AGREEMENT BY THE DC ON THE POLICIES OF THE EXECUTIVE GIUNTA. THE FIRST PROBLEM WAS RAISED MAINLY BY THOSE DC MEMBERS WHO DID NOT FAVOR A DC PRESENCE IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT THAT LEVEL. THEY SAID THAT ACCEPTING THE PRESIDENCY MIGHT APPEAR AS GIVING IN TO THE COMMUNISTS AND TACIT APPROVAL OF SOME OF THEIR POLICIES. IT WAS REJECTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRESIDENCY IS NOT AN EXECUTIVE POSITION. IN ADDITION, THE DC MAJORITY STATED THAT THEIR PARTY WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THE PCI IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA AND REGIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THEY THOUGHT INCORRECT. FINALLY, THOSE IN FAVOR OF GUERRA'S ASSUMPTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENCY LIKENED THIS SITUATION TO THAT IN ROME WHERE NO ONE CONSIDERS A QUOTE COMPROMESSO STORICO UNQUOTE TO EXIST EVEN THOUGH PCI MEMBER INGRAO IS PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. AS REGARDS THE SOCIALIST DEMAND FOR DC ACCEPTANCE OF REGIONAL PROGRAMS, THE SOCIALISTS WERE FORCED TO RETREAT ON THIS ISSUE.

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5. COMMENT. THE ABOVE ACCOUNT EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED. WHY IT HAPPENED IS MORE DIFFICULT TO STATE WITH CERTAINTY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WERE IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING THE PCI OFFER SINCE THEY ARE SO FAR OUT-NUMBERED AND SO WEAK IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA THAT THIS OFFICE AND ITS PERQUISITES (PATRONAGE) WERE AN INVITING POSSIBILITY FOR THE OBJECTIVE OF HAVING AT LEAST MINIMAL POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND SOME APPOINTIVE POWER FOR DC MEMBERS. AS FOR THE PCI, WHICH CONTROLS 28 OF THE 50 REGIONAL COUNCIL SEATS, THE COSMETIC VALUE OF NOMINAL DC PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS WAS WELL WORTH JETTISONING THE FORMER SOCIALIST COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND THUS ANTAGONIZING HIM AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA. AS FOR THIS EVENT CONSTITUTING A QUOTE COMPROMESSO STORICO UNQUOTE, I AGREE WITH THOSE WHO MAINTAIN THAT IT IS NOT, SINCE THIS TERM, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, INVOLVES THE PARTICIPATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS IN THE QUOTE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

UNQUOTE OF GOVERNMENT, I. WE, THE COUNCIL ADMINISTERS IN
ROME OR, IN THIS CASE, THE REGIONAL GIUNTA. DESPITE
THIS HOPEFULLY ACCURATE DEFINITION OF QUOTE COMPROMESSO
STORICO UNQUOTE, THERE IS THE FACT, HOWEVER, THAT A
GOOD MAJORITY OF LOCAL OBSERVERS VIEW THE EKECTION OF
GUERRA AS A FORM OF QUOTE COMPROMESSO STORICO UNQUOTE
AND A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD PROBABLE COOPERATION OF
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE COMMUNISTS AT THE
EXECUTIVE LEVEL.
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